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Mayor Gonzales Makes Pitch in Phoenix for Major League Baseball for San José

At spring training to begin efforts to baseball owners

Phoenix ---- Standing outside the gates of today's spring training game between the A's and the Giants in Phoenix, San José Mayor Ron Gonzales announced that San José was "ready to play" to get a major league baseball team for the nation's eleventh largest city.

"A major league team in San José just makes sense, both for our community and for baseball," said Gonzales. "We're here to begin making our case that a major league team in San José would be good for baseball, and it certainly would be good for San José."

The mayor noted that the city of San José has a bigger population than 19 cities that already have major league teams. If it had an American League team, San José would be the fifth largest city in the league. The city is in the center of a metropolitan area that has more than 6 million residents within 50 miles.

"San José represents a better future for baseball because we would be a large, growing, and prosperous market for baseball as a whole. We have an excellent business case that I know team owners should appreciate," he said.

"For example, our median family income is the highest of any city in the nation, and as the Capital of Silicon Valley, we have the corporate headquarters and many thousands of high tech businesses that most baseball cities would love to have.

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“San José has the numbers, the fans, and the support that the Commissioner and the owners, as good businesspeople, can understand.”

Gonzales also pointed out San José’s long-standing record as the safest big city in America, its reputation as one of the nation’s most livable cities, and its outstanding climate that make it a natural location for baseball.

“We’re in Phoenix because this is spring training for us, too,” he said. “To bring baseball to San José, we know we have to build community support and develop the answers to some challenging questions.

“Today may be batting practice for us, but we’re getting ready for a long game that may go into extra innings. By the end, however, we think both San José and Major League Baseball will be the winners.”

Gonzales announced at his annual state of the city address in February this year that he intended to seek a major league team for San José. In partnership with grassroots community organizations, including Baseball San José, and with civic and business leaders, he will prepare a proposal to Major League Baseball that will put San José in contention for a team of its own.

For more information, go to ***www.baseballsanjose.com***.

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[Attached are population tables based on the 2000 U.S. Census for cities with major league teams that show where San Jose ranks. Updated census projections to be released this summer are anticipated to show that San Jose will have become the tenth largest city in the nation.]

Population of American League MLB Cities (2000 U.S. Census)

| <u>City</u> | <u>Team</u> | <u>Population</u> |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------------|
| New York | Yankees | 8,008,000 |
| Chicago | White Sox | 2,896,000 |
| Toronto | Blue Jays | 2,519,000 |
| Detroit | Tigers | 951,000 |
| San José | | 895,000 |
| Baltimore | Orioles | 651,000 |
| Boston | Red Sox | 589,000 |
| Seattle | Mariners | 563,000 |
| Cleveland | Indians | 478,000 |
| Kansas City | Royals | 442,000 |
| Oakland | A's | 399,000 |
| Minneapolis | Twins | 383,000 |
| Arlington | Rangers | 333,000 |
| Anaheim | Angels | 328,000 |
| Tampa | Devil Rays | 303,000 |

Population of National League MLB Cities (US Census 2000)

| <u>City</u> | <u>Team</u> | <u>Population</u> |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|
| New York | Mets | 8,008,000 |
| Los Angeles | Dodgers | 3,695,000 |
| Chicago | Cubs | 2,896,000 |
| Houston | Astros | 1,954,000 |
| Philadelphia | Phillies | 1,518,000 |
| Phoenix | Diamondbacks | 1,321,000 |
| San Diego | Padres | 1,223,000 |
| San José | | 895,000 |
| San Francisco | Giants | 777,000 |
| Milwaukee | Brewers | 597,000 |
| Washington | Nationals | 572,000 |
| Denver | Rockies | 555,000 |
| Atlanta | Braves | 416,000 |
| Miami | Marlins | 362,000 |
| Saint Louis | Cardinals | 348,000 |
| Pittsburgh | Pirates | 335,000 |
| Cincinnati | Reds | 331,000 |